



502d Personnel Services Battalion 4th Infantry Division (Mechanized)

Official Family Readiness Group Newsletter



October 2005

Volume I, Issue II



Commander's Corner

Team,

As we prepare for our deployment, I ask that you take a minute to reflect back on all that we have accomplished in the past couple of months. We have moved our motorpool operations from Aviation alley to the Support Brigade location, to include connexes and our PLL. This is not a small feat. Secondly, we have conducted a BN Level Live Fire exercise to prepare us for convoy operations - tough training, to standard, over a period of three tough, hot days, and completed driver's training. Next, we consolidated our operations into our new BN HQs, building 10001, while clearing buildings 410 and 2805 - all while still conducting personnel service support. Finally, we stopped for a minute and conducted a great BN organizational day. Thank you to all who helped us pull that together, and thanks to all the families who came and enjoyed the camaraderie and great food and fun. The competition was fierce, but at the end of the day, we all will have some bragging rights and some good memories of friendly competition. This battalion truly knows how to work hard and play hard, and in the end we have come out a stronger and tighter unit for the effort.

Now is the time to ensure we do the same for our families. As we draw closer to movement day, we need to put the same effort forth to create that bond in our spouses and children, and set their minds at ease. Our pace will pick up in the next several weeks, but we have liberal leave and several long weekends remaining to get our personal affairs in order. Me, personally - I am going to finish those couple of honey-do's that I've just put off around the house. You know - those one or two projects that take time and effort to make a quality product, like refinishing a piece of furniture or touching up some paint. The XO might actually get his retaining wall finished before Mother Nature has something to

say. While your to-do list might differ, my message is the same - now is the time to work those last minute details and take care of our loved ones. Work just as hard at that as you have worked on training and our movement, and you will be successful.

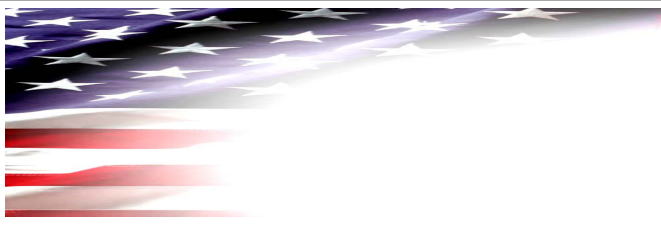
I'd also like to take a couple minutes to talk about our Army. We have a well trained and capable force that is headed out to do a dangerous mission, yet it amazes me how we continuously exceed retention standards year in and year out. I firmly believe this is because our Soldiers today want to be trained hard and given an important mission, and continue to be a part of a winning organization that can claim they are the best in the world at what they do - after all, we are the ultimate armed force - global police, if you will - without equal. We have several Soldiers who are entering the window for reenlistment, and will be eligible to receive any bonuses tax free once they enter theater. I challenge you all to continue to excel and meet our goals for the upcoming quarter, and enjoy the benefits of reenlisting in a combat zone. Our Army depends on you!

Finally, this is a reminder for our upcoming deployment briefing. There will be two briefings on Tuesday, 1 November at 1300 and 1700. The earlier briefing is targeted towards single Soldiers, while the evening briefing is aimed at Soldier's families. Child care will be provided, and we will ask your spouse for numbers by mid-October. Location is currently scheduled at the Phantom Warrior Center. I look forward to seeing you all there.

Thank you,
LTC Todd Garlick

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CSM Corner

Engaged and occupied is how I would describe our battalion's posture since our last FSRG newsletter. We successfully moved our consolidated motorpool from the airfield to its current location on 37th Street. This past week, we simultaneously consolidated our battalion operations from buildings 410, 2805, and 10009 to building 10001; conducted convoy life fire exercise; received an overview deployment expectations and possible courses of action; while continuously providing quality customer service in the personnel arena.

Last Thursday was another glorious day for our organization. Specialist Price, Vang and Wagner were promoted to Sergeant. Private First Class Murlo and Ridenour were promoted to Specialist and Privates Miller and Gillian

were promoted to Private First Class.

Last Friday we celebrated our achievements at BLORA during our battalion organization day. Once again, our soldiers proved they know how to work smart and have fun. It's a proud day in 502d PSB.

We are continuing to train our NCO Corps to meet the challenges of tomorrow. We concentrate on the current Mission Statement which is to train leaders and soldiers in providing personnel service support for the Army of today and the 21st century through excellence in doctrine, Leader Development, Organization, Material, and Soldiers. The family and friends of our Soldiers should be proud of all the hard work and dedication that our NCO's show. Keep up the great work!

Thank you,
CSM Divina Bobb



Family Readiness News

FRG Information Notes:

The 502nd PSB Deployment Briefing will take place on November 1, 2005, at the Phantom Warrior Center at 1300 for single soldiers and at 1900 for the 502nd families. It's very important for all families to attend this briefing. Please mark you calendars and plan to join us for this informational presentation!

AKO Accounts (Army Knowledge Online): All spouses are encouraged to open an AKO account before their soldier deploys, especially those spouses who do not already have email. Soldiers can sponsor up to 5 dependents on AKO for free email accounts. See <http://us.army.mil> to sign up. For families without access to a computer or the Internet, free access is available at most public libraries, including the Casey Memorial Library at Fort Hood.

Got Issues? Just AFAP it!

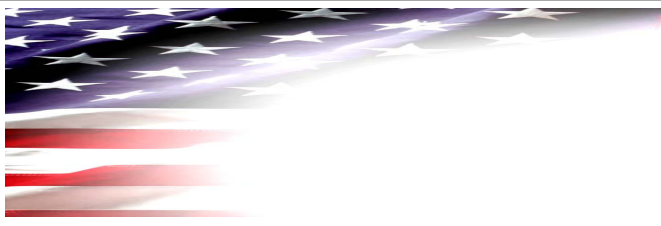
The Army Family Action Plan (AFAP) Conference is your opportunity to raise local issues to Army leadership. It's a grass-roots process that lets Soldiers and Families say what's working, and what isn't - AND how they think issues can be resolved. AFAP alerts local commanders and Army leaders to areas that need their attention, and gives them the opportunity to put plans into place to work toward resolving issues.

AFAP currently needs issues from Active Duty, Guard and Reserve Soldiers, Retirees, Surviving Spouses, Army Civilians, Teens and Family Members. Issues can be anything pertaining to the quality of military life to include: Force Support, Housing, Entitlements and Benefits, Family Support, Sole/Duel Military, Youth/Education, AAFES, the Commissary, Civilian Employment, Retirement, and Medical/Dental issues. The Fort Hood Army Family Action Plan Conference is scheduled for October 25-27, 2005. If you have an issue or concern that affects the quality of life of the Army family please submit it into an AFAP issue box located throughout Fort Hood!

October 22, 2005 is Make A Difference Day. Contact Army Volunteer Corps (287-VOLS) to find out how you can volunteer to Make A Difference in our community.

Santa's Workshop is a private non-profit organization whose mission is to provide toys for military families who are in financial need during the holiday season. Active duty military with dependent children between the ages of six months and 14 years of age by December 25, 2005 are eligible to apply. Contact the 502d's Command Financial Specialist, SSG Green at 553-0854 for more information and assistance with the application process.

Thank you,
Carrie Garlick
and
SPC Autumn Jensen

**HHD****VIPERS**

- Viper Birthday's

SPC MULLINGS 01 SEP 05
PFC SAVINI 16 SEP 05
1SG WOODS 30 SEP 05

- Miscellaneous:

Enjoy a day of fun in the sun at Sea World for free by logging on the following website:
www.herosalute.com

Now you can view what is going on in the battalion anytime by logging on <http://www.hood.army.mil/4ID/> Click on "Units" then "502d PSB". The website is continuously updated with the latest information that will assist family and friends with upcoming events.

- Thank You:

I would like to take a moment to say thank you to all that supported the VIPERs dinner/meeting. As we prep for our future deployment, I am in great hopes that our foundation is and WILL remain solid- That foundation is you! The inspiration and motivation you bring to the fight is invaluable. As stressful time become of greater concern, I pray that our (VIPER FRG) members, can aid in combating that. Your support Means so much to so many. One Team One Fight! "Viper's-Raise Up"!

- Viper Promotions:

SGT VANG
SGT WAGNER
SPC MORLU
PFC MILLER
PFC GILLIAM

- Viper Hails:

None for the Month of September

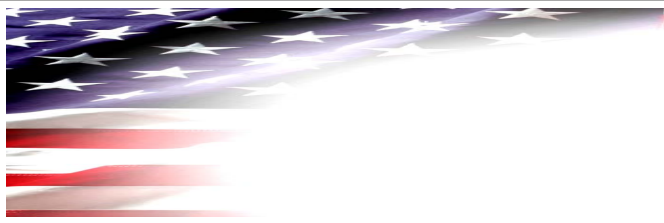
- Viper Farewells:

None for the Month of September

- Upcoming Events

28-4 OCT	Drivers Training
30 SEP	BN Organization Day
4-5 OCT	APFT
6 OCT	Reflexive Fire
7 OCT	Training Holiday
10 OCT	Training Holiday
13-14 OCT	M16 Range
15-30 OCT	Liberal Leave
01 NOV	BN Classes
TBD	Bake Sale
TBD	Deployment Party

Thank you,
CPT Whittington

**Commander's Notes:**

In the coming month we will complete unit deployment training and offer liberal leave to all deploying soldiers. With the Battalion move complete from building 410 to building 10001 the detachment is once again focused on training. There are multiple training events scheduled for the first two weeks of OCT. This last series of training events will sharpen skills and teach new soldiers the tactics they will use to ensure a safe deployment. The third and fourth weeks of OCT are set aside as a liberal leave period to allow deploying soldiers time to spend with family and friends. It is my intent this month to strike a balance between the training and domestic aspects of every deploying soldiers life.

FRG Notes:

Thank you to everyone that made our first bake sale a great success! A special thank you to all of you who helped the day of the event: Jennifer Mortimer, Chris and Heather Bellus, Julie Burns, Erika Rude, and Billy Walker. Thanks to Chris Bellus, for supplying and maintaining the country store which has been our major fundraiser throughout the year. – Jodi Motszko

Promotions:

SGT Champion

SGT Daniels

SPC Linton

Births:

K'Shawn Arreola Born 19 SEP 05

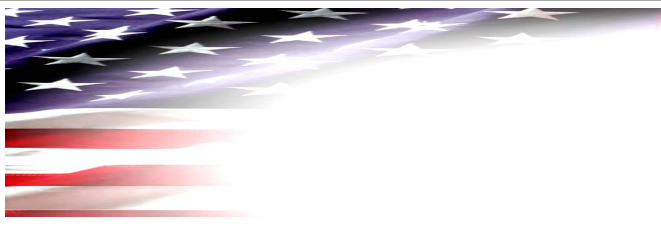
Conner Ridenaur Born 28 SEP 05

FRG Points of Contact:

FRG Leader	Jodi Motszko 698-1471
Co-Leader	Jennifer Mortimer 290-2811
FRG Liaison	PFC Julie Burns (219) 306-5751
FRG Treasurer	Heather Bellus 285-8264
Events Coordinator	Jennifer Engman 338-5666

Upcoming Events:

3-5 OCT 05	Detachment FTX
6 OCT 05	Reflexive Fire Range
7-10 OCT 05	Columbus Day Weekend
12 OCT 05	FM 7-8 Battle Drills Bunkers Paintball Course
13 OCT 05	Detachment FRG Meeting BN Classroom
13-14 OCT 05	BN M16 Range
15-31 OCT 05	Liberal Leave
28 OCT 05	Farewell Party Phantom Warrior Center
31 OCT 05	FRG Fundraiser FT Hood National Bank



BRAVO BULLDOGS



• **FRG POC'S for the Bulldog Family**

FRG Advisor: Robin Lane

FRG Co Advisor: Patty Cisneros

Birthdays:

CPT Lane

SPC Henry

New Bulldogs:

SPC Henry

SPC Martin

PV2 Weaver

Bulldog Barbeque - Robin and I enjoyed having you over.



PIE IN THE FACE "VENGENCE"



I want to thank the families for participating in providing food for the FRG bake sale.

Robin Lane



Promotions:

SPC to SGT Price.

Upcoming Events:

5 Oct – PT Test

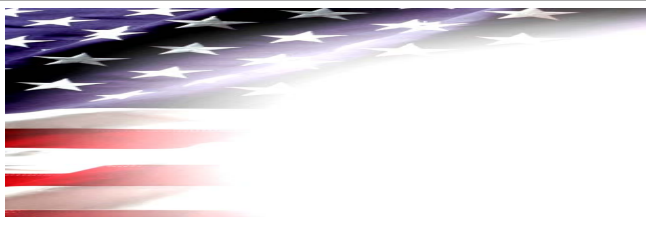
13-14 – M16 Range

15-31 – Liberal leave

I want to thank all the families for all the support they have shown the Bulldogs. We have a website that you can visit to see all updates and pictures. Go to www.hood.army.mil and click on units then "502d PSB."

CPT Lane

SFC Cisneros



• **FRG POC'S for the Outlawz Family**

FRG Advisor: Sabina Galan

FRG Leader: SGT James

• **Birthday Announcements:**

SGT James	2 OCT
SPC Guy	10 OCT
Cinthia Licon	10 OCT
Austin Roerich	16 OCT
SPC Boggs	25 OCT
CPL Holston	26 OCT



• **Anniversaries:**

SPC & Mrs. Torres

6 OCT

• **Birth Announcements:**

None this month



• **Convoy Live Fire!**

This exercise assists our Soldiers is preparing them for the upcoming deployment. The ability to shoot your weapon from a moving vehicle is not easy. Everyone should be proud of these Soldiers, they did a tremendous job!



• Our Soldiers did a great job at the team building exercise. The ability to communicate to a squad of blind-folded Soldiers is harder then one could imagine. SSG Shelton and SSG Bishop did an outstanding job in guiding their teams but of course As the photo indicates myself and CW2 Fritz came in first!!!!.

After the exercise our Soldiers and family members enjoyed the quarterly B-Day cake/pot-luck.



• **Key Dates:**

4 OCT

5 OCT

6 OCT

7 OCT

10 OCT

13-14 OCT

15-31 OCT

PT Test

FRG Meeting

Reflexive Training

Training Holiday

Training Holiday

M-16 Range

Liberal Leave

Kids only

Did you know that Lewis and Clarks expedition traveled over 8000 total miles over a period of 2 years, 4 months and 10 days. When the expedition reached the Pacific, Clark estimates they have traveled 4,162 miles from the mouth of the Missouri to the Pacific. His guess was within 40 miles of the actual distance.